

The Problem

2

Not Recognizing Unity / Purpose of the Lord's Supper is not just about eating (see also v. 34), its about the commonality we share in Christ.

Note: In this instance it is the financially well off not recognizing the impoverished.

Despise / *kataphroneo* / To act as if something has very little value.

Humiliate / *kataischyno* / put to shame, humiliate, put down.

3

Remembrance / The overall purpose of communion is to remember the person and work of Jesus Christ. It has to do with the body and blood of Jesus given for our sin.

Remembrance / *anamnesis* / A reminder, a remembrance, a representation. Both the act of the cross and the positive results of the cross (thus, in context remembering the unity the cross brings us (see Eph 2:1-22, particularly vs 11, & 17)

In the Gospels / Review the gospel texts of this remembrance / Matthew 26:26-29, Mark 14:22-25, Luke 22:17-20

New Covenant / Jesus' death and the results of that death fulfill all the older and ancient covenants found in the OT / Abrahamic, Mosaic and Davidic covenants find fulfillment in him. Matthew 5:17

1

Divisions / The only proper division in the church is the division of **authenticity** and **truth**— theological rightness and love (1 Cor 1:10, 12:25).

Other forms of divisions such as divisions by **personality** (1 Cor 1:12), **race** (Col 3:11), **education level**, **intelligence**, **status of Position in society**, **personal opinion** (1 Cor 10-14), **gender** (Gal 3:28) etc. are out of bounds and dangerous.

Genuine / *dokimos* / tried and true, genuine on the basis of having been tested.

The Corinthian Church was not recognizing their unity, thus this harsh statement above.

The Lord's Supper

1 Corinthians 11:17-34

¹⁷ But in the following instructions I do not commend you, because when you come together it is not for the better but for the worse. ¹⁸ For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that there **are divisions** among you. And I believe it in part, ¹⁹ for there **must be factions** among you in order that those who are **genuine** among you may be recognized.

²⁰ When you come together, it is not the Lord's supper that you eat. ²¹ For in eating, each one goes ahead with his own meal. One goes hungry, another gets drunk. ²² What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you **despise** the church of God and **humiliate** those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I commend you in this? No, I will not.

²³ For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "**This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.**" ²⁵ In the same way also he took the cup, after supper,

saying, "**This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.**" ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you **proclaim** the Lord's death until he comes.

²⁷ Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an **unworthy manner** will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord.

²⁸ Let a person **examine** himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. ²⁹ For anyone who eats and drinks without **discerning the body** eats and drinks judgment on himself. ³⁰ That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. ³¹ But if we judged ourselves **truly**, we would not be judged. ³² But when we are judged by the Lord, we are **disciplined** so that we may not be condemned along with the world.

³³ So then, my brothers, when you come together to eat, **wait** for one another— ³⁴ if anyone is hungry, let him eat at home—so that when you come together it will not be for judgment. About the other things I will give directions when I come.

A SERIOUS WARNING: "Without proper remembrance and true personal examination the taking of the elements of communion is a very serious and dangerous event."

4

Proclamation / Through our properly partaking in the Lord's Supper we make public the idea that Jesus died for our sins. His death in particular.

Proclaim / *katangello* / make public, announce.

5

Unworthy Manner / This is not coming "sinless" to the table, rather it is coming without "discerning the body" without "self examination." see below.

Unworthy Manner / *anaxios* / in a manner unsuitable for the occasion.

The Solution

6

A Proper Manner /

A / SELF EXAMINATION/

[1] do you recognize what God has done for you in Jesus

[2] do you recognize what God has done for you in the church by respecting other and treating them with love as equals. Our self examination eliminates God's discipline in these manners (v.31).

[3] truly examine self? Do you do this with true careful attention or are you going through the motions? (.31)

B / DISCERNING THE BODY / See 1 Cor 10:16-17 for it is part of the context of these verses.

This is remembering TWO things...

[1] the Body of Christ broken for us,

[2] and the Body of Christ, the church, and the Unity of that Body.

The Corinthians were being scolded not for failing to recognize the first part, but rather the second. *They were doing more harm not good.*

Application: We rarely note unity in the body when taking communion, focusing solely on the first point and neglecting the second.

7

ACTION / Wait, Accept

/ The Corinthians should accept and wait for one another, look out and expect one another, respect one another. This is more than just the waiting of "time."

Wait / *ekdechomai* / to accept, to wait for.



WARNING
Risk of death

Consequences?

Guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord, v.27

Judgement, v.29, 34

Sickness & Death, v.30

Discipline from the Lord, v 32, so as to avoid Condemnation.

Examine / *dokimazo* / give a critical examination of self. See 1 John 1:10

Truly / *diakrino* / evaluate paying careful attention, judge rightly.

1 Corinthians 10:16-17 / The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a **participation in the body of Christ?** Because there is one bread, **we who are many are one body**, for we all partake of the one bread.